(a) whether there are 3000 commercial pilot licence holders who have spent upto rupees 35 lakhs to become pilots and are looking for jobs in aviation sector in our country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government had increased flying age of pilots from 60 to 65, three years ago as there was a shortage of pilots and also engaged 900 pilots from foreign countries;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether there is any proposal to reduce the flying age of pilots to 60 years in order to give job opportunities for young unemployed pilots; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) The Directorate General of Civil Aviation does not maintain records of employed/unemployed pilots. Moreover, issuing of licence is not linked with demand for employment of pilots.

(c) and (d) Government had increased the flying age from 60 to 65 years in comply with the provision of Annexure-I of International Civil Aviation Organisation guidelines.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Jharsuguda airport in Orissa

† 2003. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the requirement of providing land by the State Government of Orissa to make Jharsuguda airport operational has been fulfilled;

(b) if not, the reasons for this undue delay;

(c) the remaining work to make this airport operational from commercial point of view; and

(d) whether there is any planning of cargo transportation apart from passenger transportation from Jharsuguda airport?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Airports Authority of India (AAI) had requested the State Government of Orissa for their willingness to make this airport operational and to provide required additional land of 815 acres free of cost and free from all encumbrances in this regard to AAI along with signing of MOU which was forwarded by AAI to Government of Orissa in 2007. State Government of Orissa has neither provided the requisite land nor their comments in the matter so far.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) The Master Plan forwarded to Government of Orissa, includes passenger and cargo facilities.

Agreement with global aviation organizations

2004. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether two top global aviation bodies—International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and International Air Transport Association (IATA)—have appealed Government to allow open market access to their airlines;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reactions of Government thereto;

(c) whether Government has signed any agreement to liberalize State-control on airlines industry;

(d) if so, the details in this regard; and

(e) the manner in which Government is going to protect the interest of domestic airlines companies after the implementation of said agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Schedule of private airlines

2005. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that prime time and prime sector have been allotted to private airlines; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Time slots for operation of flight and routes to be flown are filed by the airlines on the basis of commercial inputs and operational feasibility.

However, the flight schedules are approved after receipt of slot clearance from the airport operator concerned, who examine the feasibility to handle the flights at that time keeping in view runway capacity, terminal building capacity, availability of parking stands, watch hours, etc.

Upgradation of airports in Madhya Pradesh

†2006. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Madhya Pradesh has submitted any proposal to make the airports at Bhopal, Indore and Khajuraho of international level;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.